

Southern Flyer



908th Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve Command), Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala., Vol. 41, Issue 1, January 2004

200-plus unit reservists activated, 908th dispatched to provide airlift support for combat operations in Afghanistan Aircrews, maintainers deploy

By Jeff Melvin
908th Airlift Wing public affairs

EDITOR' NOTE: Last names of deployed personnel are being withheld as a security measure.

Word of the 908th's mobilization and the call to active duty of about 250 unit reservists was most likely greeted with a mixture of cheers and tears.

The unit hasn't been sitting the war on terrorism out -- since the events of Sept. 11, 2001, nearly 100 unit members, including the majority of the security forces personnel and small groups of services and aero-medical evacuation personnel have been activated at various stages and have served at stateside and overseas locations. Yet

many 908th members have been feeling almost like the only family on their street not to get invited to the neighborhood block party since being primed, ready and perhaps only days away from call up for Operation Iraqi Freedom almost a year ago and never getting the call. That would explain the cheers.

And the tears, well, the tears spring from the same source. Some times you get what you asked for. Shortly after Thanksgiving, wing reservists were called to active duty to provide airlift support to Operation Enduring Freedom (combat operations in Afghanistan). The reservists, primarily aircrew members and aircraft maintenance personnel, are activated for up to one year. Family separa-

tion, and the grim reality of war, that's also part of the equation.

"We've expected this mobilization and deployment for some time. In some ways, finally getting the order was a relief. Our deploying members are trained, equipped and ready to provide airlift in and around Afghanistan," said 908th AW Commander Col. James Stewart.

Less than a week after mobilization activities began Nov. 30, word filtered back from the deployed location in central Asia that the 908th was already performing its mission; less than a week later the deployment was complete. The speedy transfer of people, and equipment was

Continued on Pgs. 4&5



Map of Afghanistan and surrounding area



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Master Sgt. John and family minutes before departure



Photo by Paul Troy

Deploying members attend mass briefing at Academic instructor School Auditorium

We salute wing people, families & employers who make sacrifices

I'm extremely proud of all those involved in our mobilization and deployment. In five days we completed all actions required to bring our people in, process them into active duty status and begin to deploy them overseas.

Much of that burden fell to a small number of people like 1 Lt. David Lionberger, Chief Master Sgt. Gary Looney, and Staff Sgt. William Fletcher in the Logistics Readiness Squadron, Maj. Dan Quitno in the 357th Airlift Squadron, Master Sgt. Wes Meyer in Maintenance, and Master Sgt. Drew Butler in Mission Support Flight just to name a few. They along with other wing members worked around the clock for several days. Their efforts resulted in a fast, smooth mobilization and deployment process. The entire effort from notification to final departure was completed in two weeks.

Included at the end of this article is a list of people who also deserve recognition for their stellar support and tireless efforts. My heartfelt thanks and gratitude to everyone involved. Great job!

Within a few days of arriving in theater, our people and aircraft have already flown missions in theater demonstrating they arrived trained, equipped



By Col. James Stewart
908th Airlift Wing commander

and ready to provide airlift in and around Afghanistan.

For those activated and deployed reading this missive, thank you for being ready and willing to stand up and serve your country. You have demonstrated to all the qualities of the ideal reservist by showing up with your game face on, ready to deploy. As I told you, I am here to do what I can to make the burden lighter for you and for your families. If you have a problem, don't wait, bring it to the attention of your leadership in country. If they can't help...let me and my staff here at Maxwell work it. I want you to be safe and focus on the job of fixing and flying airplanes. You can't do that if you've got a problem distracting you from the business at hand.

To the families, we are here, ready to help. If you've got a problem with benefits, pay issues etc. please don't wait. Call your spouse's squadron, or my office and we will help answer your questions and solve any problems. We who are left behind, will do all in our power to make sure we take care of you while your loved ones are away.

During the coming year, members of the 908th, our families and employers will all make tremendous sacrifices in order to protect our

nation. Our operations and maintenance people will spend much of the next year away from their families in central Asia. The families will miss their loved ones. Spouses will have to pick up all the responsibilities at home. Then there is the employer, who will have to make sacrifices to cover the position while the reservist is gone. I want all, members, families and employers, to know how much we in the 908th appreciate your efforts and sacrifices.

Deployment super performers

Entitlements briefing team

Lt. Col. Bill Forshey
Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bob Anders
Maj. Troy Vonada
Chaplain (Capt.) James Danford
Tech. Sgt. Rod Bush
Tech. Sgt. Oran Hudson
Tech. Sgt. Jackie Townsend
Tech. Sgt. Flora Walker
Ms. Rosetta Brown
Ms. Debbie Smith
Ms. Jean Greene & Ms. Evelyn Wilson (42d Med Group/Tricare)

Operations Group

Maj. Steve Catchings
Maj. Dan Quitno
Maj. Don Richey
Maj. Carol Vavra
Capt. Chris Anderson
Tech. Sgt. Sgt. J. D. Ballentine
Tech. Sgt. Teresa Cruger
Staff Sgt. Barbara Owens
Maintenance Group
Chief Master Sgt. Melvin Thomas
Senior Master Sgt. Harold

(Sonny) Chavers

Senior Master Sgt. Barry Smith
Senior Master Sgt. Don Smith
Master Sgt. Gaston Cannon
Master Sgt. Archie Green
Master Sgt. Roy Kimble
Master Sgt. Wes Meyers
Master Sgt. Terry Shook
Mission Support Group
Chief Master Sgt. Gary Looney
Staff Sgt. William Fletcher
Master Sgt. Lynn Whited
Master Sgt. Donna Bursley
Staff. Sgt. John Traum
Staff. Sgt. Doris Traum
Aeromedical Staging Squadron
Lt. Col. Carol Anders
Maj. Kirsten James
Tech. Sgt. Valeria Knight
Staff Sgt. Jujuana Alexander
Staff Sgt. Tam Dunning
Senior Airman Rosalyn Hurst
Senior Airman Ron Mirenda

EDITOR'S NOTE: This list merely represents some of the outstanding folks not only within the 908th but the host wing as well; it isn't all-inclusive.

We will face challenges together -- side by side, heart to heart

January is beginning of a New Year. 2003 has been a year that we shall not soon forget!



By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bob Anders
908th Airlift Wing senior chaplain

We have seen new members join us. We have seen some members retire. We have celebrated the birth of new family members. We have walked together as some have left this life for their eternal reward. We have deployed, redeployed, and deployed again. We showed our best to the command with the UCI, and they reaffirmed for themselves that the 908th is the best.

The last several months have been really rough. We have all busted our "cans" to meet the demands that have come down to us, as of

late. Working together, as a family, each one doing their part, we have made it through the initial phase of this mobilization.

With all honesty, while we have ironed out most of the wrinkles in the process, the next rotations will be just as difficult as the initial one.

There will still be families torn asunder. There will still be kids in cars wondering why Mama or Daddy are not riding home with them.

We will still stand in lines figuring out that there is a difference between

being "ready to go" and "ready to leave." We will still stand outside 1016 and watch take offs, fly bys, and we will still watch until the clouds envelope the last glance of our planes. We will face all of these together. Side by side. Heart to heart.

Just as we have done in the past, so shall we face this new and coming year.

Through the strength that The Lord gives, and through the faith that we each have, we will hang together and persevere. May God's richest blessings abide with each of you.



Commander,
908th Airlift Wing
Col. James N. Stewart

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For information about this schedule, call Jeff Melvin at (334) 953-7874.

The postman still delivers

908th vice commander sees parallels between two blue suit careers

By Jeff Melvin
908AW Public Affairs

Dependability has been the hallmark of Col. Charles "CW" Fox's two "blue suit" careers – the Air Force and the U.S. Postal Service, where more than 30 years ago he joined the ranks of blue suiters renowned for letting "neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night" keep them from the "swift completion of their appointed rounds."

It's been a long time since he delivered mail – Colonel Fox retired in January 2002 after more than 20 years as a postal inspector. These days he delivers something less tangible but no less important – leadership, first as the 908th's second in command since June 2002 and most recently, in the dust and heat of south Asia where he spent 60 days as commander of the 321st Air Expeditionary Wing.

The 321st supports Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Horn of Africa taskings. He oversaw the wing's nearly 1,000 personnel successful accomplishment of more than 2,000 sorties and 500 missions, hauling almost 3,000 tons of cargo and 20,000 passengers in, out of and around the combat zones from

its headquarters at Camp Justice, a forward deployed location in the Middle East.

His job at Camp Justice as the wing commander, the colonel said, was very much like his job as a postal inspector. "As an inspector I would frequently work with different inspectors from different states, all of whom would have their own ideas and ways to handle situations. But we always worked together and got the job done. There, we had active duty, guard and Reserve Air Force members all working side by side. As before, everyone brought with them their own ideas and ways of doing business. But again, just as the Total Force philosophy defines its purpose, we all had one goal – work together and complete the mission," Colonel Fox said.

His military career has spanned 32 years so far. He originally enlisted in the U.S. Army as a North Vietnamese linguist. He later joined the Army National Guard and then transferred to the Air National Guard where he entered undergraduate navigator training. Upon receiving his wings, he was assigned to several Air Force Reserve units across the nation before his current assignment as 908th Airlift Wing vice commander. He's



Half a globe away two postal workers, former letter carrier and retired postal inspector Col. C.W. Fox and Fort Worth, Texas, letter carrier Chief Master Sgt.

Freddy Proctor, do their part in the nation's war against terrorism as commander and command chief respectively of the 321st Air Expeditionary Wing.

a master navigator with more than 5,000 flying hours.

Colonel Fox said he saw his role not only as the commander of the wing, but also as a leader and mentor for the next generation of leaders, both officer and enlisted. "It was my responsibility to provide my people with opportunities to develop professionally as well as personally. There's no teacher like experience," he said.

He had no reservations about giving young officers and enlisted members positions of great responsibility. "I worked with some of the brightest and most talented indi-

viduals I have ever worked with in my entire career. This was not an isolated situation. Our Air Force is full of members who share these same qualities. It was my privilege to invest my time and effort in molding these young members into the leaders of tomorrow's Air Force," the colonel said.

A big believer in taking care of your people, he added, "It's a principle as old as leadership itself, but the results never change – they will, in turn, do a good job for you." (Adapted for the Southern Flyer from an article by Tech. Sgt. Cindy Beam, 321EAW/PA)

Military, community agencies can provide help, info to deployers, families

Military resources

908 AW Family Readiness: Bldg. 1056, Rm 102 (1st Floor)

Point of Contact: Tech. Sgt. Rod T. Bush

E-mail address: Rod.Bush@maxwell.af.mil

Phone numbers: DSN 493-5478 or 9018; *Commercial (334) 953-5478 or 9018 (Auth. Code: 673/Ext. 3-5478/9018); Toll-free: 1-866-351-8788 or 1 (800) 673-9356 (Auth. Code: 673, Ext. 3-5478 or 9018)

Normal hours: 0730 - 1630, Monday – Friday

UTA Hours: 0800-1700, Saturday; 0700-1600, Sunday

908 AW Reserve Pay: Bldg. 1056, Rm 207 (2nd Flr)

POC: Ms. Rosetta Brown/Mrs. Deborah Smith

Phone numbers: DSN 493-6722; *Commercial (334) 953-6722

E-mail address: Rosetta.Brown@maxwell.af.mil

or Deborah.Smith@maxwell.af.mil

Military pay web site: www.dfas.mil

Normal hours: 0730-1630, Monday – Friday

UTA Hours: 0800-1600, Saturday; closed-Sunday

* You can contact the Maxwell AFB base operator by calling 334-953-1110, daily/24 hour contact, including holidays.

Community resources

American Red Cross: (334) 260-3980 {If you live outside the greater Montgomery area call 1-866-RCHELPS}

Red Cross web site: www.redcross.org

United Way: (First Call for Help) in the greater Montgomery area, dial (334) 264-7318

United Way web site: www.mauw.org

Veterans Administration Montgomery Regional Assistance Office:

(334) 213-3400

Local web site – www.vamontgomery.com; national VA web site – www.va.gov

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve: 1 (800) 336-4590

ESGR web site: www.esgr.org

United Armed Forces Association: www.uafoa.org

Other helpful internet resources

Air Force Crossroads: www.afcrossroads.com

Air Force Aid: www.afas.org

Army & Air Force Exchange Service: www.aafes.com

Deployment Connections: www.deploymentconnections.com

Exceptional Parent web site: www.eparent.com

Free Handbooks from Federal Government: www.feddesk.com/freehandbooks.htm#twfp

Military Women: www.Militarywoman.org

Military Spouse Resource Center: www.militaryspouse.org

Military Spouse Support Network: www.members.aol.com/widowclub

Office of Human Resource Management/Veteran Affairs/

Information for Employees Called to Active Duty: www.va.gov/ohrm/reservist

Operation Uplink/Free Phone Cards: www.operationuplink.org/request.cfm

Reserve Affairs: www.defenselink.mil/ra

Sgt. Mom's: www.sgtmoms.com

TRICARE (Reserve): www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve

TRICARE Medical Matters Fact Sheet: http://www.tricare.osd.mil/factsheets/index.cfm?fx=show (Info provided by 908AW Family Support)

908th supports combat ops in Afghanistan

Continued from Page 1
accomplished aboard unit aircraft dispatched to the forward location with an assist from an Air Mobility Command C-5 Galaxy. The massive aircraft touched down on the Maxwell AFB flightline Dec. 9, and six hours later lifted off bearing 100,000 pounds of aerospace ground equipment and cargo pallets ably loaded by 25th Aerial Port Squadron cargo specialists. Colonel Stewart said he couldn't be prouder of the men and women he commands.

"Here it is right before the holidays and our folks are deploying to a place far from their families. But they are doing so with the understanding that this is an important mission, and they know that what they do over there is vital to the security of their families back here in the states. I'm proud of every one of them."

Colonel Stewart expressed his concern for the families whose loved ones have deployed and said he wants them to understand that his remaining people will do anything they can for the families of those deployed or deploying.

"I know that a young son or daughter doesn't really grasp why Mommy or Daddy has to go away before Christmas, but I want those spouses left here to know that I'm committed to ensuring they receive whatever support the Air Force and this unit can offer them. If they need us, we are here for them."

That's good news but no surprise to one deployer, C-130 loadmaster Senior Master Sgt. Ricky, who said his wife has "so many phone numbers – if she dials the wrong one they'll point her in the right direction. The 908th is providing us with a lot of support back home and that makes me feel better about leaving."

Fellow deployer director of operations Lt. Col. Karl also praised the squadron

support. Leaving is always tough, he said "especially since I have a 19-month-old son that I'm leaving behind. I feel kind of bad leaving my wife to handle all that alone, but there's a good support structure here with the people staying behind and the local community. I'm confident she'll be taken care of but it's hard leaving them."

Sergeant Ricky, the loadmaster, is the father of a teen-age daughter and a young adult son. He, too, acknowledged the difficulty of leaving family behind.

"Deployment is good but leaving family behind is never an easy thing. I have them prepared so I'm not worried about that. They're going to take care of things here. I feel good about -- not necessarily about going-- them being prepared. I don't have to worry about them."

The length of this deployment makes it different than others but he's confident that things will work out. He told his son to be the man he raised him to be; his daughter, an 'A' student, to continue to study hard; and his wife to "be strong, do what I asked you to do and things will work out."

The key, he said, is to "keep a tight ship of love – that's what my family is based on."

Although leaving their families is hard, the deploying personnel are excited to take part in the war on terror.

"I told the guys back the first time when we didn't get called up that our time would be coming sooner or later, that it was just a matter of time and here it is. Now we have a job to do and we'll go over and do it well. We all support what's going on over there (the war effort). Now we get to do our part and take a shot at it. We train for this. Now we get to see if we do it as well for real as we do in training. It's a chance to prove ourselves," Colonel Karl said.



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Staff Sgt. Jamar and family spend final moments before his departure.



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Deploying members underwent updated or refresher training as needed.



908th Aerial Port Squadron members prepare to board a unit C-



25th Aerial Port Squadron personnel worked on equipment.



-130 bound for central Asia.

Photo by Paul Troy



Photo by Jeff Melvin
tirelessly to load cargo



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Deploying personnel completed a myriad of actions such as updating insurance policies, family member ID cards and records; completing wills and powers of attorneys, etc.



Photo by Paul Troy

Colonel Stewart and senior wing personnel salute departing reservists.



Tech. Sgt. Alison gives Master Sgt. Lee a shot at Base X.

Words from the front

We made it!!!! It took just a little over a week to reach Base X but we are all here including the Youngstown folks supplementing the 908th.

Our first week on the ground was truly a challenge. We worked literally around the clock to receive our incoming aircraft and to find places for our folks to bed down.

On the third day it started snowing and the temperature keep dropping until it hit 1 degree above zero. We did fine and have made the transition to permanent party.

The tents are eight man tents that are double lined. Each "hooch" has it's own flavor according to the occupants. If you can't eat during set hours for hot chow, the dining facility has sandwiches, soft drinks and fresh fruit 24/7.

We are busy. Our guys are flying pretty much continuously and loving every minute of it. The pride and professionalism of the 908 Airlift Wing is everywhere. If I ask any of our people how they are doing I normally get "activated and motivated." We do miss our families but understand why we are here. We have a Christmas party scheduled and will all be together then.

Special thanks to all the people back home who made the troop movement such a success. The folks at the MPF, the finance ladies to include Lt. Col. Forshey....Without ya'll we couldn't have done it on such short notice. The squadron UDM's were awesome. When we arrived we were more than ready to go to work. We had all our papers in order.

If we need anything sent it would be thermal socks, the little packets of hand warmers, more of the small bottles of hand sanitizer's and just anything ya'll might want to send. There isn't anything called fast mail here. No FedEx or DHL or anything like that. I checked with the post office and since we are in a combat zone, they don't fly into here. If it's 13ozs. or less it's considered First Class mail. If it's over 14ozs. it's considered Priority mail. Frankfurt, Germany is the holding area for our mail; we should be receiving mail within the next couple of days. Keep it coming. Nothing like the smile on the face of a G.I. who receives mail from home. Do not be alarmed. Even though it's considered a combat zone, we are safe, secure with not much of a concern for any confrontations. We remain vigilant, but safe.

Peace be with all of you. Hope your Holidays are good.

-- Senior Master Sgt. Richard

The maintenance folks are all in place, to include our friends from Youngstown. Everyone hit the ground running. In less than 24 hours after arrival, we were already learning to de-ice aircraft (a first for many) and the next day we were launching our first missions. We're working 12-hour shifts to keep the aircraft flying, it has been very busy. After fixing aircraft, our folks have managed to fix LOX carts, hangar heaters, and radios to make our maintenance activities run even smoother.

Tent living is not too bad; we just miss the modern conveniences of indoor plumbing. Nothing like a trek to the shower/latrine in the middle of the night in 3 degree weather! The food is better than expected, but none of us will be putting on too many extra pounds. Warm socks and mail are our Christmas and New Year's wishes. We would also like to send a special thanks to the pay ladies, Wes Meyer, Rochelle Peterson, and Chief Thomas for all their hard work ensuring the deployment's success.

-- Major Constance

Tax relief law aids, military, families

WASHINGTON — Reservists who travel more than 100 miles to attend drills or meetings no longer have to itemize to claim a tax deduction for overnight travel expenses.

This change and other benefits for members of Air Force Reserve Command and their families are the result of the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003, signed into law by President George W. Bush Nov. 11. The "above-the-line" deduction for overnight travel is retroactive to Jan. 1.

"(Reservists will) be able to deduct unreimbursed travel expenses such as lodging, 50 percent of meals and any transportation costs," said Lt. Col. Janet Fenton, director of the Armed Forces Tax Council.

Another major change increases the death gratuity payment to \$12,000 and provides that the full payment is tax-free. That portion of the act is retroactive to Sept. 10, 2001, to provide for servicemembers who died in the terrorist attacks the following day and in the ongoing global war on terror.

"If you are killed on active duty, regardless of whether you're in theater, or in a training accident or die from disease, your family receives \$12,000 death gratuity that is not taxed," Fenton said. "And that's a big change. In addition, any future increases to the death gratuity will remain tax-free."

Since 1991, the death gratuity had been \$6,000, with

half of it being taxed, Fenton said.

"It just didn't seem to be fair for the military family who was left grieving for their servicemember to get hit with a tax bill," she said.

When the tax code changed in 1986, it allowed any military benefit existing in September 1986 to remain tax-free, Fenton said. However, it was always unclear whether military child care was included in that, she added.

"This act merely makes it clear that those provisions of child care were intended to be tax-free to military members," she said.

The tax act also provides for extra tax-filing time for servicemembers serving in contingency operations. The internal revenue code allows servicemembers who are serving in combat zones or hazardous-duty areas to have an extension of time — usually 180 days from the time the person leaves the combat zone — to file taxes.

"A lot of military operations don't rise to the level of being declared by the president as 'combat,'" Fenton said. "But there are several contingency operations where servicemembers are outside the continental United States."

The act also includes modifying eligibility criteria of tax-exempt veterans organizations; tax-free treatment of homeowners' assistance program payments; suspension of tax-exempt status for

designated terrorist organizations; and extension of victims' tax relief to astronauts who die on space missions.

Capital-gain exclusion for home sales is another area people are looking for tax relief in, Fenton said.

"This act will allow members to suspend the period of time which they have to sell their home and take the tax exclusion so they won't have to pay that capital gains," she said. "It's retroactive to 1997 so military members who have sold their homes since 1997 have one year from Nov. 11, 2003, to request a refund for any tax they did pay."

Since 1997, when the law was previously changed, if servicemembers who owned a home got reassigned more than 50 miles from that home or was ordered to move on post, they were no longer able to roll over the gain from that sale to the next home they purchased.

Also since 1997, individuals could exclude up to \$250,000 (\$500,000 for married couples) of gain from the sale of a home if they resided in it for two of the five years preceding the sale. Under this act, military and foreign service people can suspend (for up to 10 years) the time transferred away from home on official extended duty for purposes of applying the five-year portion of the two-out-of-five-year rule. (AFRC News Service from American Forces Press Service)

Thumbs up to Maj. Kelly Maiorana and fellow Christmas party organizers for putting together the first wing-wide holiday celebration in many years. Their hard work and perseverance produced a first class, fun-filled affair.

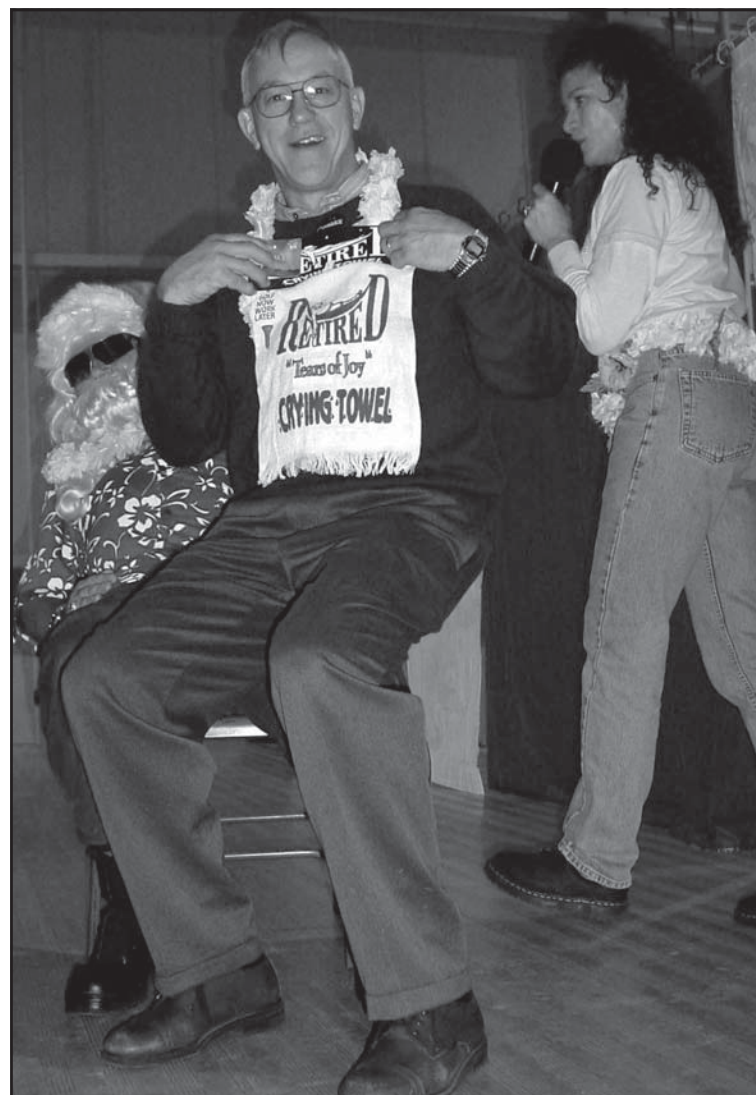


Photo by Jeff Melvin

Was he naughty or nice?

Santa gets a work out as Col. Norm Bell sits on his knee and receives an early Christmas present, a retired "Tears of Joy" crying towel, at the wing holiday party Dec. 6. Although in the background in this photo, Maj. Kelly Maiorana was up front most of the night as MC and primary organizer of the festive event.

Jacket, pullover require nametag

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas (AFPN) -- The Air Force has established both the mandatory wear date and proper wear for the new metallic nametag on service dress uniforms and pullover sweaters.

Effective Jan. 1, the nametag must be worn on the wearer's right side of the service dress jacket with the bottom of the nametag level with the bottom of the ribbons, said Air Force Personnel Center officials here. It should be centered between the sleeve seam and the lapel.

If a duty badge is worn on the wearer's right side, men will center the badge a half-inch below the new nametag; women will center the badge a half-inch above the new nametag. An exception is when a command insignia is worn by either men or women. It is worn either a half-inch above or below the nametag. Then, the duty badge is worn either a half-inch above or below the command insignia, depending on whether the airman is a current or former commander.

When the maternity jumper is worn as the maternity service dress, the nametag should be centered on the right side and placed even to, or 1 1/2 inches higher or lower than, the first exposed button.

The nametag will also be worn on pullover sweaters on the wearer's right side with the bottom of the nametag level centered between the middle of the sleeve seam and the seam of the neckline. It will not be worn on the cardigan sweater.

For more info, airmen may contact military personnel flights or commanders support staff. (AFPC News Service)

Air Force seeks reservists for force protection duties

LACKLAND AFB, Texas -- Air Force reservists, E-1s through E-6s, can apply for installation force protection duties.

The Air Force needs about 3,000 volunteers from any specialty code to replace Army National Guard soldiers who have been doing these duties. The Army is preparing some soldiers for other missions.

Officials at the Air Force Security Forces Center on Lackland said they may start placing applicants before Christmas.

The volunteers will serve

on active-duty manday orders for 30 days or more through Sept. 27, 2004. They will augment force protection at stateside active-duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command bases. Host security forces will train them in checking IDs, inspecting vehicles and performing sentry duties.

These tours will qualify the reservists for full basic allowance for housing and TRICARE Prime, as well as lodging and per diem if outside the commuting area.

Interested reservists should be current on all

medical, government travel card and membership issues. They also need permission from their squadron and wing commanders.

The Volunteer Reserve System Web page at <https://vrs.afrc.af.mil> has more details under the Force Protection Augmenter announcement. Interested unit reservists should call Maj. Luke Grubb and individual mobilization augmentees should contact Senior Master Sgt. Tom Tirey at (210) 671-5628 or DSN 945-5628, or extensions 5147 or 7051. (AFRC News Service)

January Unit Training Assembly Schedule

Start	End	Event	Location/OPR
Friday, Jan. 9, 2004			
1630	1900	Commanders' Staff Meeting	Bldg. 1056/CC Conference Room
Saturday, Jan. 10, 2004			
0730	0800	Sign In	Orderly Room
0730	0800	Newcomers' Flight Reception	Bldg. 1056/Rm 101/DPMT
0800	0850	Newcomers' Intro/Orientation	Bldg. 1056/Rm 101/DPMT
0800	1100	Lab Work/DNA/HIV/Blood Testing	Bldg. 760/Lab
0820	1500	Physicals	Bldg. 760/First Floor
0830	1130	Shots (Yellow Fever, 1030-1130)	Bldg. 760/First Floor
0830	0900	Pregnancy Profiles/Weight Waivers/ Fitness for Duty (Bring DD Form 689)	Bldg. 711/Records Room
0830	1030	Anthrax Briefings (30 min.)	Bldg. 760/First Floor
0830	1230	NBC Defense Training	Bldg. 1154/Rm 119
0830	TBD	Units at Range M-16 (Classroom)	Firing Range/SFS/Combat Arms
0830	1130	Air Force Training Course	Bldg. 845/MXG Conf Rm
0900	1000	Unit Security Managers' Mtg	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Rm
0900	1000	Unit Safety Reps Mtg	Bldg. 1055/CE Conf Rm
0930	1000	TDY/PCS Out-Processing	Bldg. 1056/Rm 111, DPMSA
1000	1100	Gas Mask/A1 Bag Issue (Newcomers)	Bldg. 848/West Side
1000	1100	Unit Deployment Managers' Mtg	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Rm
1030	1130	First Sergeants' Meeting	Golf Course Snack Bar
1200	1600	Gas Mask/A1 Bag Issue (Newcomers)	Bldg. 848/West Side
1230	TBD	Units at Range M-9 (Classroom)	Firing Range/SFS/Combat Arms
1230	TBD	Units at Range M-16 (Firing)	Firing Range/SFS/Combat Arms
1230	1530	CDC Testing (SNCOA Course 5&12 CD Rom Only)	Bldg. 903/DPMT
1300	1400	Human Resources Development Council	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Rm
1300	1500	Newcomers' MPF In-Processing	Bldg. 1056/Rm 109/ Bldg. 1154/Rm 119
1330	1730	NBC Defense Training	Bldg. 711/Records Room
1330	1400	Fitness for Duty (Bring DD Form 689)	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Rm
1400	1500	Supervisors' Safety Training Mtg	Orderly Room
1700	TBD	Sign Out	
Sunday, Jan. 11, 2004			
0630	0700	Sign in	SOC, Bldg. 1403, Polifka Auditorium
0700	0800	Wing Commander's Call	SOC, Bldg. 1403, Polifka Auditorium
0815	0900	MPF In-house Training	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Room
0830	1230	NBC Defense Training	Bldg. 1154/Rm 119
0830	TBD	Units at Range M-9 (Firing)	Firing Range/SFS/Combat Arms
0830	1130	Hazardous Cargo Training	TBD
0830	1130	Pallet Build-up/Joint Inspection	25APS (Various locations)
0830	0900	Fitness for Duty (Bring DD Form 689)	Bldg. 711/Records Room
0900	0930	Worship Service (Recommended)	Bldg. 846/Classroom 2/25 APS
0900	1000	Wing Mobility Out-Processing	Bldg. 848/West Side
0930	1015	EPR Training	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Room
1000	1030	Worship Service (Recommended)	Bldg. 848/Classroom/COM Flight
1015	1100	Participation Meeting	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Room
1100	1130	Worship Service (Recommended)	Bldg. 1056/Rm. 101/DPMT
1100	1200	Wing Career Advisors' Meeting	Bldg. 1052
1130	1230	Chief's Group Meeting	Bldg. 1461
1130	1230	SORTS/Commander Meeting	Bldg. 1055/Cmd Post
1230	1530	CDC Testing	Bldg. 903/DPMT Classroom
1300	1400	Chemical Mask Exchange	Bldg. 848/West Side
1300	1400	Honor Guard Meeting	Bldg. 1056/Cmd. Chief's Office
1330	1400	Fitness for Duty (Bring DD Form 689)	Bldg. 711/Records Room
1330	1430	UTA Bulletin Meeting	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf. Room
1600	TBD	Sign-out	Orderly Room

Support functions' schedule

Activity	Dates & hours of operation		Location/Ext.
Newcomers' Training Flight		Sun, 0630-1600	Bldg. 1056/Rm 101
MPF Customer Service	Sat, 0800-1200	Sun, 0900-1100	Bldg. 1056/3-5522
		Sun, 1200-1600	Bldg. 1056/3-5522
ID Cards	M-F, 0630-1600	Sun, 0700-1600	Bldg. 1056/3-5522
	Sat, 0800-1200		
	1500-1700		
Reserve Pay	M-F, 0700-1100; 1200-1600	Sat, 0800-1600	Bldg. 1056/3-6722
Fitness For Duty (Bring DD Form 689)	Sat, 0830-0900 1330-1400	Sun, 0730-0800	Bldg. 711/3-5714
Medical Records	Sat, 0800-1500	Sun, 0800-1300	Bldg. 711/3-5714
Individual Equipment	Sat, 0800-1530		Bldg. 1154/3-6020
Clothing Sales	Sat, 0900-1500		Bldg. 851/3-7505
Restricted Area Badges	M-F, 0630-1600	Sun, 1200-1500	Bldg. 502/3-4283
Vehicle Registration	M- F, 0730-1600	Sun, 1200-1500	Bldg. 502/3-4283
	Sat, 1300-1500		Bldg. 1056/Rm 102
Geneva Convention Cards	M-F, 0730-1600	Sun, 1200-1500	Bldg. 502/3-4283
Dining Hall	Sat, 0600-0930	Sun, 0600-0930	Bldg. 668/3-5127
	1100-1300	1100-1300	
	1600-1830	1600-1830	
Lodging office/reservations (lodging problems, contact 908th rep via lodging front desk)			Bldg. 1573/3-2401
Photo lab	M-F, 0730-1630	Sun, 1300-1500	Bldg. 926/3-7981

January UTA Lodging

To access the Lodging Reservation System, please follow these instructions:

- * Make reservations, cancellations or changes at least 24 hours prior to arrival.
- * Call Maxwell at 1-800-673-9356
- * Input your unit's authorization code
- * Dial the system at 3-8557 or 3-8558
- * The system will ask for your SSAN, which you will input with the telephone keypad
- * The system will ask for your personal ID number, followed by the "#" sign. (PIN is available through your First Sergeant or Services 3-7332)
- * The system will ask if you would like to make, change, or cancel a reservation.
- * To make a reservation, input arrival date and then departure date.
- * You will be asked if the reservation is ADT, IDT, or both (ADT: Annual Tour, Mandays, Special Tour) (IDT: UTA, AFTP, RMP, Make-up UTA)
- * If this is a scheduled UTA weekend, the system will tell you where you will be staying
- * If you cancel or change a reservation, you will be prompted for a phone number.
- * **The confirmation number you receive is for 908th Services use only.**

Note: You can also call the system direct DSN or Commercial. The numbers are: DSN 493-8557/8558 or COMM: (334) 953-8557/8558.

If you have a question please contact Master Sgt. Byron Godwin at:

Commercial: (334) 953-7332
DSN: 493-7332
E-mail: byron.godwin@maxwell.af.mil
Emergency cell: (334) 657-1304

Notice! Checkout time at Maxwell Lodging for the January UTA is 0800 Sunday. If you do not have time to go to the front desk, and do not have a phone charge, there will be a key drop box located in Bldg. 157 (Main Lodging) for your convenience. Please do not use this box if you have any charges on your bill. In accordance with AFI 34-246 **smoking is not permitted in lodging rooms.** You may be charged a minimum of \$50 for cleaning for violating this AFI.

Airlift will be lodged at the Hampton Inn, Prattville.

Aurora, Ill./Huntsville, Ala. Airlift Schedule

UTA pick-up schedule Friday:

Depart Maxwell at 1530 local
Arrive Aurora at 1800 local
Depart Aurora at 1830 local
Arrive Huntsville at 2030 local
Depart Huntsville at 2100 local
Maxwell at 2145 local

UTA return schedule Sunday:

Bus departs Bldg. 1056 at 1530

Depart Maxwell at 1600 local
Arrive Huntsville at 1645 local
Depart Huntsville at 1700 local
Arrive Aurora at 1900 local
Depart Aurora at 1915 local
Arrive Maxwell at 2115 local

FY 04 Unit Training Assembly Dates

Feb. 7-8; March 6-7; April 3-4;

May 1-2; ****June 5-6-12-13;**

July 10-11; Aug. 7-8; Sept. 11-12

****note date change**

Less is best

Air Force aims to convert multiple C-130 models to two types; 908th will be first to receive new "M" model

By Maj. Jerry Lobb
908AW Public Affairs

The 908th Airlift Wing is on the leading edge of the C-130 community. 908th H-2s and E models belonging to the 189th Airlift Squadron, Idaho Air National Guard will be the first in the Air Force to go through the Avionics Modernization Program.

Both unit's aircraft will begin the conversion during FY 2008, said Capt. Jason Rusco, C-130 AMP test manager. Boeing is the prime contractor for the project that will eventually upgrade approximately 520 aircraft when the program is completed in 2016.

According Captain Rusco, the AMP program's goals are: to allow the aircraft to meet the Global Air Traffic Management requirements, to improve the workload management for flight crews and to reduce the total ownership costs for the C-130 fleet.

Currently the Air Force has 14 variants of 5 different models of the C-130: E's, H-1s, H-2s, H-3s and the J model. When the AMP program is completed there will only be two major models; the "M" as the converted E and H models will be called and the Js.

The C-130s current analog instrumentation will be replaced with six digital displays and the flight management system Boeing developed for its newest version of the 737.

In October, the 908th's aircraft 286 was at Eglin for testing inside the McKinley Climatic Laboratory. Engineers from Air Force Material Command and Boeing gathered data on the Environmental Control System. Master Sgt. Leon Alexander, Tech. Sgt. Todd Kern and Senior Airman Alex Fefelov, 908th Maintenance Group, assisted the engineers in rigging the aircraft with modified duct work containing various sensors to analyze data while the aircraft was subjected to engine runs on jacks inside the chamber. They also incorporated the engine run checklist with Boeing's testing procedures and checklists. Throughout the course of the tests the aircraft was

subjected to extreme weather simulations such as Arctic temperatures reaching down to minus 42 degrees and heat ranging to 150 degrees as well as torrents of rain. 908th MXG personnel were on location during the entire procedure to supervise the modifications, perform the engine runs and ensured the aircraft's safe return upon the end of testing.

Tech. Sgt. Mike McGill and Staff Sgt. Don Corkum performed the engine runs inside the chamber. Sergeant McGill sweated it out in the cockpit at temperatures up to 150 degrees for five days. Sergeant Corkum probably wished for some of that heat as he entered the frost covered aircraft chilled to minus 40 degrees. Boeing will use the data received from this testing to improve the survivability of their design and to identify additional heating and cooling requirements if needed.

Captain Rusco said the testing was successful due to the outstanding support received from Little Rock AFB, Maxwell AFB, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command and Headquarters Air Mobility Command. The testing led to a better understanding of the C-130 and its performance in hot/cold environments and will lead to a better design for AMP, he said.

The AMP conversion holds promise to make life easier for both operators and maintainers.

Lt. Col. Karl Schmitkons, 357th Airlift Squadron's director of operations, said he looks forward to post-conversion operations. "Currently when we deploy we may end up with two or three models operating out of the same location, as we did at Joint Forge a couple years ago. This creates a real nightmare for operators who try to build a flying schedule several days in advance. If I've got an H-1 lined up to fly and it breaks, the spare may be an E model. So now I've got to send the H-1 crew home and call in an E crew who may be scheduled to fly a different line tomorrow. The



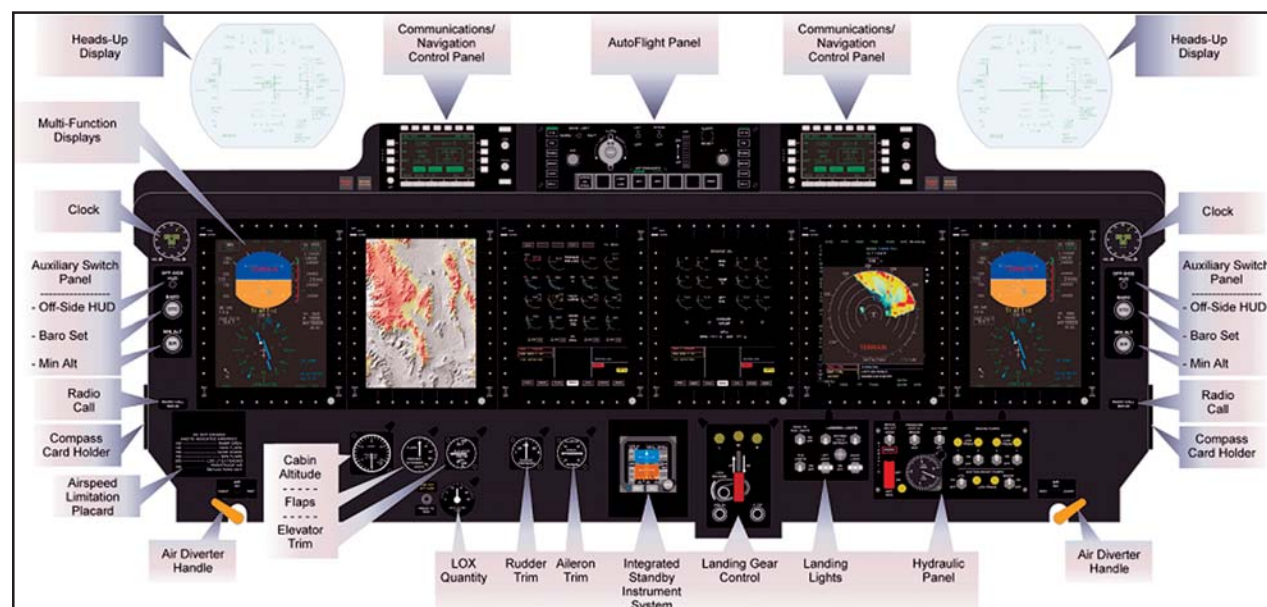
Photo by Dr. Richard Freeman

Aircraft 286 rigged for testing and chilled to minus 40 degrees inside the Climatic Chamber at Eglin AFB, Fla. The nine C-130s belonging to the 908th will be the first of more than 500 converted to the "M" model as a part of the C-130 Avionics Modernization Program.

effects of one change can disrupt the plans for several days of flying. When this conversion is complete, it will make scheduling and operations in a deployed environment much easier. Training will also be simplified since there will be two schoolhouses -- one for the M and another for the J. When a pilot completes training and goes to a squadron, they won't need additional training to qualify on a cockpit significantly different from the one they flew at the schoolhouse.

The conversion will also offer benefits for the maintainers. There will only be two types of C-130 parts to maintain, instead of the present five. The M model parts will also be shared with those with the commercial 737 so there will be a bigger pipeline and inventory of parts from the various suppliers. Training for maintainers will also be simplified with only two models.

Research for the AMP program will continue in 2004 with flight testing.



C-130 Avionics Modernization Program cockpit display

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